

JANUARY 2012

Calhoun Chronicle



The famous New Year's ball is getting prepared to drop in Manhattan, New York.
Photo Courtesy of metropolismag.com

Cheers to the New Year!

by Brooke Ohrt
Staff Writer

Let the count down begin; 3...2...1... Happy New Year! The ball has dropped and it's time to think of a new year's resolution. Forget the past and start fresh in 2012.

The crystal ball that is "dropped" every year in Times Square, Manhattan, New York City began on Dec. 31, 1907, and has continued its tradition through 2012. Every year, there are famous musicians who perform at the ceremony to get people in the U.S. ready for the new year. But with the time-zone difference, sometimes it's not as convenient for people like us Midwesterners.

"I didn't watch the ball drop this year," said junior Brad Naughton, "but I'd want to visit Times Square for the New Year if I ever had the chance."

Junior Chloe Delgado watched the ball drop for 2012, but also watched some things that she didn't enjoy. "I didn't have a favorite part from this year's ceremony. I didn't like seeing Justin Bieber ruin a Beatles' song before the ball dropped."

Why only New York? Why not have a "ball" in every time zone in the U.S.? Watching the ball drop an hour before our new year kind of kills the mood.

"I think they should have something similar to this in a local town. It'd be cool," said Naughton.

Having a ball for the Central Time Zone would be more convenient for people like teacher, Mrs. Karli Johnson, who watches the ball drop every year.

"If they had a New Year's Ball locally, I would definitely visit it, but I also would want to go to New York to experience it once," Johnson said. "My favorite part of the new year is it means it's the start of

something new. But it's also kind of sad to move on and look back at all the good memories from the previous year."

So whether watching the ball drop is a tradition or not, just remember that the new year comes with a new you. Happy 2012!

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2011

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PODCASTS!!**



New & Improved Show Choir

by Maggie Christianson

Staff Writer

The show choir is dreamin' of "Summertime" - at least that's what they sang about at their first competition in Gretna, Jan. 24.

The show choir placed first in their division at Gretna Primetime. Overall, they were pleased with their performance and the amount of progression they have made since the winter concert.

Their Broadway-theme music set list includes: "Opening Night", "Forget About the Boy", "Summertime", "Coffee" and "Officer Krumpke".

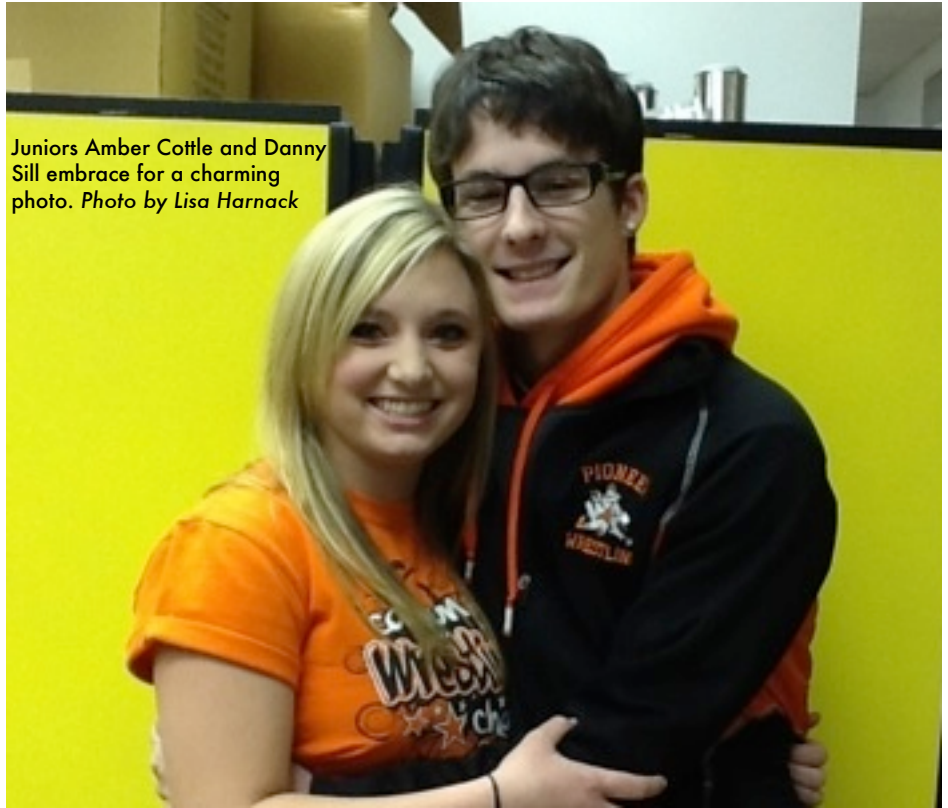
Cole says, "I thought the Broadway theme provided a great opportunity for the students to grow as individual performers as much of it is about the character and story of each piece, not just doing cool moves to a pop song."

Instead of last year's 18-person group, they added some new faces, making it 24.

Mrs. Cole says, "I think the expansion was a great idea!"

The show choir recently changed its name to Fort Calhoun Phenomenon. Previously the group was the Fort Calhoun Show Choir.

Juniors Amber Cottle and Danny Sill embrace for a charming photo. Photo by Lisa Harnack



Love is in the Air

by Lisa Harnack

Staff Writer

Just about every teen is either in a relationship, "talking" to someone or wants to be in a relationship. In fact, in a national survey, 89 percent of teens ages 13 to 18 reported being in a relationship. Some people have been in a relationship for more than a year. Some have only been in one for a few weeks, and it may only last a few more.

Relationships can be difficult for adults, and even more difficult for teens. One of the weakest points in teen relationships is communication. It's not because they don't communicate enough, but rather they don't communicate properly. With all the other options to communicate other than face to face - text messaging, email, Facebook, Twitter - the intention of the words can be severely misinterpreted. Something as simple as "thanks" could be misinterpreted.

One of the other weaker points in teen relationships is trust. Senior Dylan Remm, who has been in a relationship for 5 months believes that trust is one of the most important aspects of a relationship.

I have seen first hand many relationships fall apart because of trust issues. I had a friend of mine have huge issues with his girlfriend, because she went through his phone. She didn't trust him with who he had been talking to, and he felt it a violation of his privacy had been violated by her doing that.

Juniors Danny Sill and Amber Cottle have been in one of the longest relationships at our school - 2 years and 4 months to be exact.

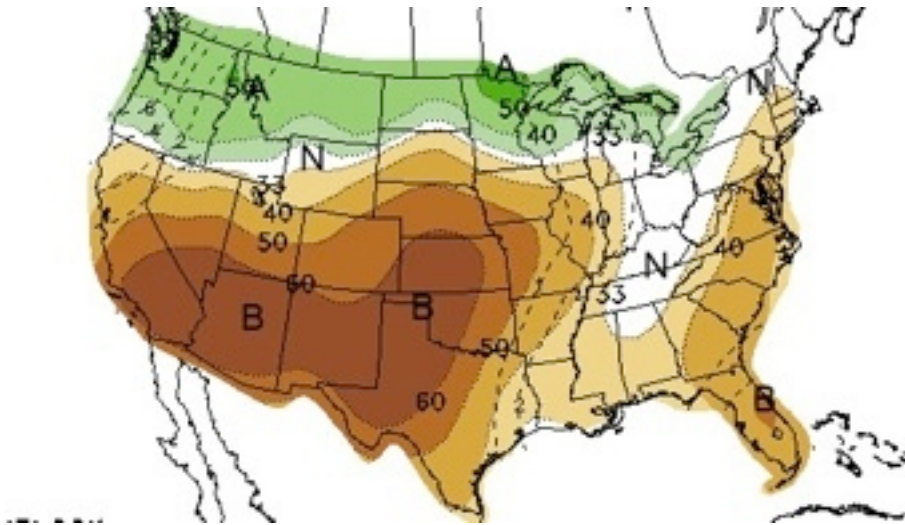
"The best part of being in a long relationship is always having someone to talk to and having a best friend," says Cottle.

So what is their secret to a long relationship? Trust and respect.

Calhoun Chronicle Staff

Ali Boyd	Emily Lewis
Maggie Christianson	Gabby Mears
Stephenie Dale	Evan Melbourne
Connor Dethlefs	Jesse Nelson
Starr Farris	Amanda O'Keefe
Lisa Harnack	Brooke Ohrt
Julie Hofer	Emily Shannon
Jordan Hudson	Adam Swartz-Brown
Chelsea Larsen	Katlynn Hale

Weather maps such as this one show that a majority of the United States has been hit with higher temperatures than normal. Photo courtesy of Interweb.com



50 degree December?!

by Gabrielle Mears
Staff Writer

According to the National Weather Service, less than 15 percent of the country had snow cover the week of Jan. 8. A year ago, that number was 47 percent. The warmth was hardly limited to Nebraska.

Hundreds of high-temperature records were broken in dozens of states. Nearly the entire country was above freezing. In the Dakotas, some towns saw highs 40 degrees above normal.

The impact can be dramatic, one meteorologist, Josh Boustead, explained, with a lack of snow often boosting temperatures by about 10 degrees. Everyone is asking why this is happening? Some scientist are contributing it to global warming but others, like Boustead, say, "There's a force holding back the Arctic air that usually makes the states cold: jet streams, high-speed currents of air propelled by the Earth's rotation that flow eastward around the northern and southern hemispheres."

Other people, such as Katie Greenlaw, senior, contributes the cold weather to "global warming, of course!... The warm weather is way better. I only want the snow if it's going to bring a snow day!"

The northern jet stream normally shifts its way across the U.S. and Canada. It often has a loose border between warm, southern air and cool, northern air. Where the two meet, storms usually form that are pushed around the states by the jet stream. Those storms bring snow, but because the air is being held back, not much snow is coming this year.

Although the first week-and-a-half of January was seemingly spring weather, on Jan. 11 Fort Calhoun had snow fall. A lot of other states got snow throughout the previous days also. The highest amount of snow fall on the 11th was 10 inches, and some states, most in the southern hemisphere, had cold chills that were 20 degrees below the norm.

Where did the snow go?

by Adam Swartz-Brown
Staff Writer

Recently in Fort Calhoun we have had very little snow. This anomaly may change in the near future, but it still doesn't cover up the fact that we have had hardly any snow these winter months. Bottom line, this climate change has impacted people.

"It didn't feel like Christmas," says Mrs. Donahoe. And that was true - we had a very brown Christmas instead of a white one.

The lack of snow has even inconvenienced some people's source of i n c o m e .

Reid Hansen, junior, says, "It stinks since I'm out of my snow plowing job." Hansen is right, the snow plows have had little to do this year.

The few flurries the winter weather has brought has made people less jolly due to the extreme cold we have been having recently. "I wish it would snow more, but it's probably all gonna come at once," moans Hansen.

Whether it snows or not this, winter is different from last year.

Healthy eating habits for the New Year

by Julie Hofer
Staff Writer

With the new year here, people are making new year's resolutions to lose weight. Committing to healthy eating can be difficult, so try these tips.

Many foods include hidden ingredients that make them unhealthy. Kick-out the yuckies and bring on the yummys!

For a refreshing snack, try smoothies. Add almost whatever you want, whether it is yogurt or frozen strawberries. Some ingredients such as ice cream and syrups can make the smoothies unhealthy, so avoid them.

One tasty smoothie recipe includes frozen strawberries, peach yogurt, ice, a small amount of Sprite and a tiny amount of frozen limeade concentrate.

Fruit parfaits can be easily made at home. Just add yogurt and frozen or fresh fruit in layers. Add nuts or granola for texture.

You can forego the yogurt and have plain fruit. Fruit is a quick snack. From bananas, to oranges, to apples, they all make for a delicious treat.

"I LOVE Cutie Clementines. They are delicious!" says sophomore Bailey Baxter.

If you prefer salty instead of sweet, opt for crackers such as Wheat Thins or Ritz.

Baxter states, "If I want chips, sometimes I just have pretzels that are delicious and more nutritious."

One snack that is delicious and healthy is sun dried tomatoes on top of a cracker with a small amount of cream cheese.

Don't forget, though, no matter what you choose to consume, eat it in moderation.



A pretty fruit and yogurt parfait is pleasing to the eye and your weight.
Photo by Julie Hofer

Winter break equals relaxation

by Katlynn Hale
Staff Writer

We all know everyone loves winter break. When school lets out in late December, students hang out with friends and family, receive gifts over the holidays and best of all, get to sleep in.

Junior Jaden Boudle says, "I hung out with Brad Naughton, drank a lot of pop along with eating a bunch of food."

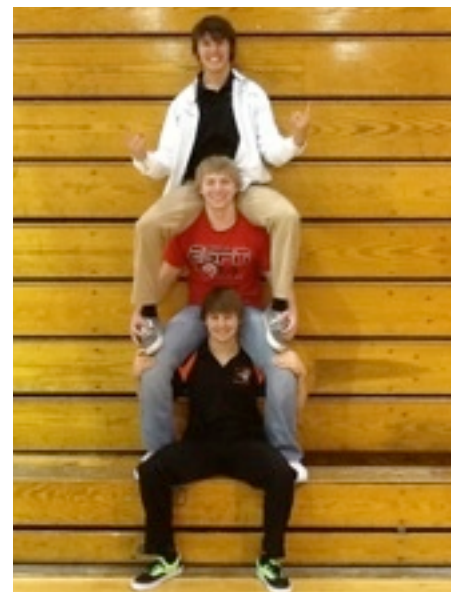
Everyone has a favorite and least favorite part of winter break. Boudle also says, "My favorite part about winter break was obviously no school and my least favorite part is it wasn't long enough and went too quick."

In contrast to Boudle's winter activities, junior Jordan Kann says, "I hung out with my family and had a basketball tournament that we placed second in."

Knowing everyone has their most exciting part of winter break Kann's was "being able to sleep in everyday, going to bed at about 3 a.m. and waking up at 11:30."

Students aren't the only ones who enjoy time off. Mr. Hatcher "celebrated Christmas with family, got a new dog named Mojo who is actually Mr. Huffman's dog and caught up on sleep."

This winter break was a success in many people's eyes but most wished it was longer because we were back to school in no time.



Juniors Brad Naughton, Jaden Boudle, and Jordan Kann enjoyed their break together. *Photo by Katlynn Hale*

Feast your eyes at art contest

by Amanda O'Keefe
Staff Writer

Senior Amber Linnenbrink hovers over a large sheet of paper, partially filled with her artistic talents. She works diligently on her images of fish under the sea.

Acrylic paintings, water color, colored pencil, charcoal, markers and pastels are all different elements used to make magnificent art



Senior Amanda Volksen's charcoal drawing is entered in the art contest.

work like senior Amber Linnenbrink's "Under the Sea" picture made from colored pencils. "I was doodling a fish one day and it inspired me to add more," said Linnenbrink. She has one picture entered into the art contest.

Drawings made from charcoal like Senior Amanda Volksen's "Stone of Nature" was also entered into the contest. "I was staring at flowers and decided to draw them," said Volksen. She has four pictures entered into the art contest.

Senior Alyssa Dippel's picture "Levels of Hue" made from acrylic paint is one of two pieces that were entered. "I wanted to explore different techniques of painting," said Dippel.

"The things that they are looking for are creativity, originality, and the elements of design" says Mr. Smith. The first steps in the contest are Mr. Smith choose the pieces he thinks will do well, then he sends pictures of them in. The people from the state will look and decide if they want to send them to the next step. After that is when the candidates find out what place they received.

Lions, Tigers and Bears, oh my!

by Emily Lewis
Co-Editor

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! With camels, clowns and people that fly! This could only mean one thing - the circus is in town.

Every year the Tangier Shrine Circus comes to Omaha's Civic Auditorium to perform for the fun-spirited Omahans. A few people from Fort Calhoun make their way to enjoy the show as well.

"My favorite part is the acrobatics," exclaims freshman Sabrina Hernandez. "They can fly, and I want to fly."

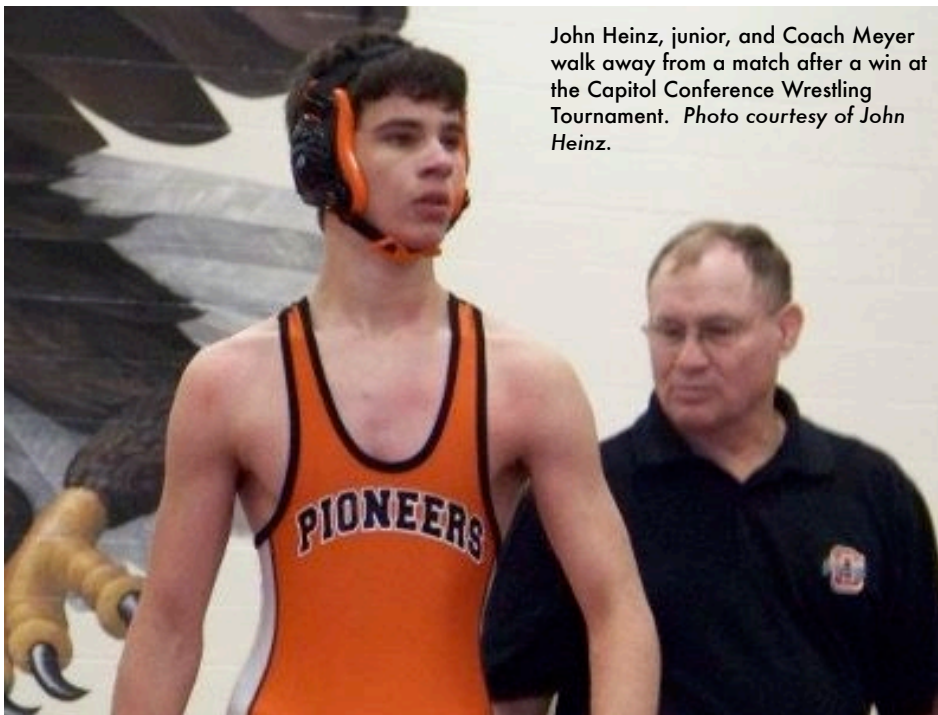
Apart from the mind-boggling performances, the

circus also serves only the best of the greasy carnival food that everyone loves. The smell of fried batter, hot dogs and pizza hits your nose and almost forces you to spend the outrageous \$5 to buy it.

The circus runs for four days at the end of February. Show performances are Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 25 at noon, 4 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 26 at 1 and 4:30 p.m. Tickets are available online or at the tickets boxes of the Civic Auditorium or Century Link Center.



The above photos are the Shrine Circus' logo and high flying acrobats! Photos courtesy of Omahashrinecircus.com



John Heinz, junior, and Coach Meyer walk away from a match after a win at the Capitol Conference Wrestling Tournament. Photo courtesy of John Heinz.

Hoops during the Holidays

by Connor Dethlefs
Staff Writer

Over winter break, our school's boys and girls basketball teams traveled to Logan View to play in the holiday tournament. On Dec. 29 both the girls and boys teams played Arlington in the first round of the tournament.

The boys team played a hard-fought, defensive game and pulled out the win against Arlington 47-40. Junior Jordan Kann led the team with 19 points.

The girls team beat Arlington also, 44-39.

"We were able to beat Arlington because we weren't being selfish...and we played smart. We looked into the paint more, which was the majority of our points," stated junior Angelica Zagata.

By beating Arlington in the first round, both teams were set to play in their respective championship games the next day. Ironically, both teams played the same school in the championship because Elmwood-Murdock's teams both won their first round games as well.

In the championship, the boy's team played rough from start-to-finish, and lost to Elmwood-Murdock 56-32.

Junior Lucas Lazure said, "I'm glad we got to the championship, but I'm disappointed we lost it."

The girl's team played Elmwood-Murdock very well in the first half of their championship game, but they couldn't pull it out and lost 43-33. Junior Maddie Westergard led the team with 9 points.

Hustle, hustle, use your muscle

by Chelsea Larsen
Photo Editor

It's no secret that the "Fort" has had a successful wrestling program throughout the years. As little kids, the boys dreamt about stepping foot in the state wrestling tournament and now as teenagers they are striving for it.

John Heinz, junior, has been wrestling since he was a toddler for clubs and for our school's team. "I'm hoping for a spot in the state wrestling tournament this year."

Heinz wrestles in the 138 weight class. In the off season, he enjoys hanging out with his good friends, seeing movies and preparing himself for the next season. Having a 4-9 record, Heinz has had a rough year with some tough competitors. He placed fourth at the Captiol Conference Tournament.

Our team has been off to a great start this season, and we can certainly see some of them making a appearance at state. With four seniors, six juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen, this team is not one to challenge. Keep your eye out for our state wrestlers on Feb. 16 this year.

High ranks for heavy metal band

by Starr Farris
Staff Writer

Metal band Black Veil Brides (BVB) is back with another hit album, *Set the World on Fire*, released on June 14, 2011. This album features "Fallen Angels", "Rebel Love Song", "The Legacy", and much more.

Lead singer Andy Sixx brings out the fans' emotions, otherwise known as the BVB Army, in the new collection. Every song depicts the freedom of the world's outcast society, giving them pride in who they are and showing the "normal" troubles of the outcasts. The song "Fallen Angels" is a perfect example of this, along with "Set the World on Fire".

All in all, I give this album an A+. On Amazon.com, the CD is \$11.97 and downloads are \$9.49.



Photo courtesy of collider.com

"Sherlock" sequel doesn't disappoint

by Jordan Hudson
Staff Writer

Criminals are surrounding Sherlock Holmes on all sides; he has no chance of getting out of this situation. The intensity rises as the four men pull weapons on Holmes. Holmes goes into slow motion and puts his Chuck Norris moves on the criminals and they are dead, just like that.

"*Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*", which hit theaters on Dec. 16, 2011, is full of action from beginning to end. If you are looking for an action-packed movie both friendly to guys and girls, this is a perfect movie for you. Critics gave the movie a 6 out of 10 and say, "*A Game of Shadows* is a good yarn thanks to its well-matched leading men but overall stumbles duplicating the well-oiled thrills of the original."

Personally, I would recommend the movie if you saw and liked the first one. The story line keeps you on your toes and keeps your interest, while the action provides the thrill to make the movie come together.

There are quite a few popular actors in the movie, too. Some of the famous actors include; Robert Downey Jr. ("*Due Date*"), Jude Law ("*The Holiday*") and Rachel McAdams ("*The Notebook*"). Downey Jr. (Holmes) and Law (Watson) are a very well matched pair for the movie. Together they are a great acting team. Overall I rate this movie at a B+.

"Fire" is Sci-fi survival thriller

by Jesse Nelson
Co-Editor

"*Dies the Fire*" takes place during the year 1998 and begins by introducing Mike Havel, a former marine and hobby pilot at a small airport. He is hired to fly a businessman's family to their vacation home in Oregon. During the flight the "Change" occurs in a bright flash of blinding light and an instant of intense pain, and they crash land in the forest.

The story also follows small-time folk singer Juniper Mackenzie who is playing in a bar when the power goes out and she witnesses a jet airliner crash in the middle of town.

Mike Havel and Juniper Mackenzie both soon realize that the strange phenomenon has somehow rendered all electronic devices, as well all explosives such as gunpowder, completely unusable. Determined to survive this new Changed world, the different groups must band together with friends and allies as they struggle to create new lives for themselves. But even as some try to band together for survival and companionship, others use the Change for more evil purposes.

Combining some Science Fiction with Alternative Reality, the book becomes a thrilling story about the struggles of survival. One cannot help but reflect on how immensely different things would be if humanity were robbed of its technological abilities. It is extremely engrossing and very hard to put down once you get started, and that is why I give this book an A for anyone who enjoys a good fiction novel.

Fun break at Fast Break

By Stephenie Dale
Staff Writer

There's more to winter than coats, boots and cold weather. Although we've had a pretty mild winter, in some cases, people go to colder places like Minneapolis, Minn. for Fast Break.

What is Fast Break? Well, if you don't know, there is a group called Student Venture composed of high school students who meet on Tuesdays to hang out, have fun and share faith. For the past few years, Student Venture has participated in Fast Break. It is a convention for youth groups around the region to unite in one place to spread their faith.

There are Student Venture groups around the nation; locally, though, they are in Fort Calhoun and Blair. Those who attended Fast Break from Fort Calhoun were juniors Josh Pace, Ben Winter and Landon Folkers and senior Ali Boyd. This isn't the first year they have gone to Fast Break; a few of these students went last year as well.

"It was my first year at Fast Break, and I will definitely go back next year," states Winter.

Pace thought that the most memorable part of the whole trip was the hotel toga party. Winter agrees

with Pace, but he can't decide if he liked the dodgeball tournament more.

Pace had a lot of positive things to say about Fast Break. "My favorite part of the whole trip was building a closer relationship with God. It was so much fun."

Fast Break also creates new and closer bonds with people our age. Boyd explains, "They taught us how to swing dance. And I can't dance, so I learned something new."

Sounds like four days of nonstop fun.



L to R: Junior Ben Winter, senior Ali Boyd and juniors Josh Pace and Landon Folkers enjoy a toga party with their new friends made at Fast Break. Photo courtesy of Ali Boyd.

Comedy Corner



We Ask, You Tell

What are you doing on Valentine's Day?



"Watching sappy movies and eating chocolates with Gerken."
-Jared Knight, senior



"Uhhmm, nothing. I don't really know yet."
-Meghan Schultz, junior



"I'm having a classy dinner with Ben Bludorn."
- Joe Genoways, sophomore



"I'm not doing anything special. Just hanging out with Jake."
-Rachel Kobza, freshman